

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Proposed Appropriation Language

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

For necessary expenses for international fisheries commissions, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by law, [\$29,925,000] \$43,576,000: *Provided*, That the United States ' share of such expenses may be advanced to the respective commissions pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3324 : *Provided further, That, in addition to other funds available for such purposes, funds available under this heading may be used to make payments necessary to fulfill the United States' obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. (Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009.)*

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	26,312	29,925	43,576	13,651

FY 2008 Actual reflects the rescission of 0.81% provided by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161, Division J).

Overview

The International Fisheries Commissions appropriation supports the Department's strategic goals of securing a sustainable global environment and ensuring economic prosperity and security by funding U.S. shares of operating expenses for ten international fisheries commissions and organizations, the International Whaling Commission, two international marine science organizations, the Antarctic Treaty, and international sea turtle conservation initiatives. In most cases, U.S. contributions are mandated by treaty; failure to meet assessments results in loss of voting rights or influence within the commissions. The appropriation also provides for travel expenses of the U.S. Commissioners and their advisors, as well as compensation to non-government employees of the Pacific Salmon Commission for days actually worked as U.S. commissioners, panel members, advisors, and/or alternates.

The commissions funded by this appropriation were established by treaties and agreements negotiated by the United States and ratified by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The United States entered into these treaties to protect its access to shared international fisheries resources and to support other vital economic and environmental interests.

Recent developments have underscored the importance of working through the commissions and programs funded by this account to conserve and manage finite and vulnerable shared marine resources. The recently re-authorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act lays out a specific new mandate for the United States to work multilaterally to address illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and by-catch of protected living marine resources. It specifically calls on the United States to promote improved monitoring, control, and surveillance for high seas and shared fisheries; improve the effectiveness of international fisheries governance through adoption of IUU vessel lists, stronger port state controls, and market-related measures; and build capacity in other countries to ensure sustainable fisheries and regulatory enforcement. Beginning in October, 2006 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, started working with other countries and international organizations to establish science-based rules to enhance sustainable fishing practices and eliminate unregulated destructive fishing practices that jeopardize fish stocks and the habitats that support them. The Regional Fishery Management Organizations and other cooperative arrangements funded by this account are the primary means of achieving each of these goals.

Program Description

The commissions and organizations funded by this appropriation enable the United States to promote critical U.S. economic and conservation interests. Each commission/organization facilitates international cooperation by conducting or coordinating scientific studies of fish stocks

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

and other living marine resources and establishing common management measures to be implemented by member governments based on their results. Many also oversee the allocation of fishing rights to their members.

Three of the commissions are bilateral U.S.-Canada bodies established by treaties governing shared resources.

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC) plays a critical role in the management of the Great Lakes fisheries. The FY 2010 submission reflects the minimum funds necessary to continue programs to implement the core missions of the GLFC — to suppress invasive, parasitic sea lamprey; to assist state, provincial, and tribal partners in the achievement of their fish community objectives for the Great Lakes; to facilitate the effective and efficient coordination of fisheries policies on the Great Lakes; and to implement a bi-national fisheries research program. FY 2010 activities will include sea lamprey control to reach target levels that protect the commercial and sport fisheries on all the lakes, valued at up to \$7 billion annually, as well as coordinated efforts to prevent other invasive species and restore populations of native fish like American eels. The GLFC has traditionally relied on chemical lampricide to control sea lamprey, but in recent years the Commission has researched and advanced the use of alternative controls, including barriers to lamprey migration and sterilization of male lampreys. In FY 2010, the GLFC intends to continue efforts to deliver 50 percent of sea lamprey control through the use of alternatives. To help reach that goal, the commission currently directs approximately 30 percent of its sea lamprey budget to controls using alternative techniques. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission is a model for adherence to performance measures, as it establishes and articulates clear and quantitative targets for sea lamprey control and other program elements and prioritizes its program to meet those targets. The United States and Canada share proportional responsibility for funding sea lamprey control programs.

The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) conducts activities necessary to save, replenish, and share the salmon resource in the Pacific Northwest and Southeast Alaska that we share with Canada. Through the Commission, the two nations have put an end to divisive disputes over interceptions by one country of salmon originating in the other country. The Commission also provides an effective forum through which governments and stakeholders cooperate to research and conserve Pacific salmon. In 2008, under the auspices of the Commission, the United States and Canada concluded negotiations on a new set of rules for most Pacific salmon fisheries. These rules will extend until 2018. The Commission's conservation and management activities depend on information and recommendations from each country and from experts and resource managers from state, federal and tribal agencies in the United States and Canada. Recent research priorities have focused on improved understanding of the migratory patterns of salmon stocks and where, when, and by whom the fish are caught; this information is essential for the countries to properly allocate and conserve salmon stocks. Legislation provides for salary payments to U.S. commissioners and panel members and their alternates for hours committed to Commission business. Travel and expenses of U.S. commissioners and other U.S. participants in the PSC are also funded from this activity. Additionally, during 2010, the Treaty provisions for Fraser River sockeye and pink salmon conservation and harvest sharing will be renewed. The 2010 request includes \$15 million for the Pacific Salmon Commission to meet U.S. obligations under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The first of two equal tranches provided to Canada under the terms of the 2008 agreement noted above. In the event the United States fails to provide this funding, the agreement's bilateral Chinook salmon fishery controls will be suspended and the recovery of affected U.S.-origin stocks could be impacted.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), founded in 1923, is one of the most successful fisheries management commissions in the world. Throughout the eighty years of its existence, the IPHC has facilitated unprecedented cooperation between the United States and Canada and has successfully managed the shared halibut stock to historically high biomass levels. The Pacific halibut fishery is diversified over coastal communities ranging from northern California, past the Aleutian Islands in Alaska, to the eastern shore of the Bering Sea, provides a high-quality food source, and yields an annual catch for the United States with a 2007 retail value of over \$600 million. Additional revenues generated from extensive guided and recreational fishing on the halibut resource exceed \$200 million. Both the U.S. and Canadian governments provide funds to support the Commission, which conducts research to further understanding of Pacific halibut, carries out regular stock assessments, and provides a forum to establish joint catch limits and management measures. In recent years, the Commission has developed innovative electronic data capture and catch monitoring systems.

This appropriation also funds seven multilateral commissions charged with conservation and management of important fish stocks and other living marine resources in the Pacific, Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) each provide a forum for nations to cooperate to ensure the long-term sustainable management of tuna and tuna-like species. Through each of these commissions, coastal and fishing nations cooperate to establish catch limits, area closures, gear restrictions, and compliance and enforcement mechanisms; combat illegal fishing; minimize impacts on threatened species such as sea turtles, seabirds, and sharks; and oversee a program of scientific research. In addition, through the International Dolphin Conservation Program IATTC is also the only international organization dedicated to reducing incidental mortality of dolphins in a tuna purse-seine fishery. The program's efforts have resulted in a reduction of dolphin mortality in the eastern Pacific tuna fishery from approximately 100,000 animals in 1989 to less than 1,000 in recent years, well below the target levels.

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) are charged with conservation of salmon and other anadromous stocks in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans respectively. A key part of the NPAFC's mission is to enforce an agreed prohibition on catching salmon on the high seas through coordinated enforcement. U.S. membership in the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) ensures the restoration of the world's largest untapped source of marine protein and aids in protecting future U.S. access to important marine resources in the Antarctic region. CCAMLR has implemented a pioneering ecosystem approach to managing valuable stocks of toothfish, sold in the United States as "Chilean sea bass" and has been a leader in developing innovative approaches to combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) allows coastal nations, including the United States, and others who fish in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean to coordinate scientific study and promote the conservation and optimum use of the region's fishery resources. In FY2010, NAFO will complete the final stage of a comprehensive program to strengthen and modernize the organization's functioning, including a total overhaul of its establishing treaty that will significantly reduce the cost of U.S. participation. The United States has led efforts within NAFO to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and end destructive fishing practices, as well as adopt the first binding international conservation and management measures for threatened shark stocks.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Finally, this appropriation also supports two marine science organizations, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS), and activities to conserve endangered sea turtles. The Atlantic-focused International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) and its Pacific counterpart, the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), promote and coordinate scientific research, particularly with respect to fisheries, marine ecosystems, marine mammals, and marine pollution. Both organizations advance U.S. goals of strengthening ecosystem considerations in marine resource management and ensuring that science informs environmental policy and natural resources management. The IWC provides for the conservation, scientific study, and optimum use of whales, and in particular provides a quota for the taking of whales by U.S. Natives for aboriginal subsistence purposes. The IWC has had several significant achievements that advance U.S. environmental interests, such as severe constraints on commercial whaling, critical analyses of unilateral whaling activities in other countries, and the establishment of whale sanctuaries in the Southern and Indian Oceans. The ATS oversees scientific and environmental cooperation in Antarctica and specifically addresses problems involving the marine environment, marine protected areas, and the sea and ice interface. The funds in the appropriation allocated to international sea turtle conservation programs support U.S. participation in one treaty-based initiative, the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IASTC), and the non-binding Indian Ocean and South East Asia Sea Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA MOU). Both initiatives provide a unique forum for nations in the respective regions to cooperate to promote the recovery of endangered sea turtle populations and their habitats throughout their migratory ranges.

Changes in the status of living marine resources often happen very slowly and are dependent on factors beyond the control of any one country. But, sustainable management of shared stocks, recovery of depleted resources, and preventing damage to the marine environment cannot happen unless countries follow rigorous, science-based management regimes agreed through regional fisheries management organizations. This indicator tracks efforts to build strong organizations where all parties agree to, and comply with, effective conservation and management measures.

STRATEGIC GOAL: Promoting Economic Growth and Prosperity	
Strategic Priority: Environment	
Indicator: Sound, fully implemented, science-based international conservation and management regimes are in place for commercially or ecologically important stocks of shared living marine resources.	
Target FY 2010	The United States initiates action within one more RFMO to complete review and implement improvements; new management measures adopted in previous RFMO to complete review aligned with scientific recommendations regarding actions needed to maintain or rebuild stocks to sustainable levels; follow-up review of most recent two RFMOs to complete assessment demonstrates measurable improvements in implementation of scientifically sound management measures and compliance by all member states.
Target FY 2009	United States initiates action within one more RFMO to complete review and implement improvements; new management measures adopted in previous two RFMOs to complete review align with scientific recommendations regarding actions needed to maintain or rebuild stocks to sustainable levels; follow-up review of first RFMO to complete assessment demonstrates measurable improvements in implementation of scientifically sound management measures and compliance by all member States.
Target FY 2008	United States initiates action within two more regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) to complete review and implement improvements; through strengthened mandate, new management measures adopted by first RFMO to complete review align with scientific recommendations regarding actions needed to maintain or rebuild stocks to sustainable levels.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Results FY 2008	Rating: On Target Rigorous external performance reviews were completed for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization agrees to begin applying broader mandate resulting from amendments to its establishing treaty and adopts ecosystem-based measures to manage vulnerable deep sea areas and establishes a process to implement stronger management for vulnerable shark species.
Impact	The two completed reviews focused international attention on how RFMOs members are often failing to live up to their commitments, with particular scrutiny leveled at compliance problems and the role of scientific advice. In response to the recommendations in the performance review and at U.S. urging, ICCAT agreed to hold a special session to assess member compliance and set consequences for members who have failed to implement agreed conservation measures.
Results FY 2007	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries David Balton led a process at the June 2007 Informal Consultation of States Parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement to develop a set of criteria for measuring the effectiveness of RFMOs. There was agreement that these criteria will form the basis for upcoming performance reviews of each of the RFMOs that manage tuna fisheries, and may be used by other RFMOs as well. U.S.
Results FY 2006	Report of the US-chaired Review Conference of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the 2006 UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution called for the strengthening of all RFMOs and for each to carry out an assessment of its effectiveness, including the status of the stocks under its purview, the basis for its conservation and management measures, and the level of member compliance with agreed rules.
Results FY 2005	Indicator established in 2006.
VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION	
Data Source and Quality	OES tracks data directly and from reports of UNGA and RFMO decisions. Data quality is in the process of assessment.

Justification of Request

Almost the entire FY 2010 request covers the United States' treaty-mandated assessments. Funds are required to maintain good standing, and in some cases voting privileges, in each of the commissions and organizations to advance the interests of the United States and important constituent groups. Through the ongoing efforts of the commissions and programs funded by this account, many fishing areas that were nearly depleted are now yielding sustainable catches for U.S. commercial and sport fishermen, and some key endangered populations are recovering. The commercial and recreational fisheries managed by these organizations generate income from \$12 to \$15 billion annually to the United States. For FY 2010, the Department has requested an additional \$15 million to meet U.S. obligations to Canada under the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The additional funds represent the first of two equal tranches provided to Canada under the terms of the 2008 agreement. In the event the United States fails to provide them in FY2010, the agreement's bilateral Chinook salmon fishery controls will be suspended and the recovery of affected U.S.-origin stocks, including many listed under the Endangered Species Act, could be impacted.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Activities	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
Program Expenses	26,312	29,925	43,576	13,651
Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)	1,785	1,785	1,800	15
Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)	16,627	19,200	17,800	(1,400)
Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)	3,024	3,200	3,250	50
Pacific Salmon Treaty Commitment	0	0	15,000	15,000
International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)	2,787	3,500	3,250	(250)
Other Marine Conservation Organizations	2,089	2,240	2,476	236
Antarctic Treaty	50	35	50	15
Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)	94	124	160	36
Expenses of the U.S. Commissioners	114	120	140	20
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)	268	270	270	0
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)	218	255	280	25
International Sea Turtle Conservation Programs	139	140	170	30
International Whaling Commission (IWC)	258	166	182	16
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)	50	55	55	0
North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)	139	180	187	7
North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)	104	114	127	13
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)	248	355	355	0
Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)	407	426	500	74
Total	26,312	29,925	43,576	13,651

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	1,800	15

Overall, U.S. payments to the IATTC are now half of what they were in FY 1999. This reduction has been coupled with successful efforts by the Department to encourage new members to join the IATTC and to negotiate increased contributions from the other members of the Commission. These new contributions have compensated for the reduced U.S. payment while allowing the Commission to handle the additional workload placed on it by its members. In addition to the extensive workload associated with the implementation of the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP), the Commission has also been tasked by its members to expand its research into minimizing the by-catch of juvenile tuna and non-target species, such as sharks and sea turtles, improve its monitoring and recording of fish landings at ports throughout the eastern Pacific, augment its research program for bigeye tuna, and improve compliance. The request will enable the IATTC to continue the research, assessment and analysis activities and programs necessary to conserve and manage the commercial tuna stocks of the eastern Pacific Ocean. It will also enable the IATTC to evaluate and manage the impacts of the fishery on the broader marine ecosystem of the eastern Pacific, contributing to the IATTC's and the Department's objectives of sustainable use of marine resources and ecosystem management. In FY 2009, the IATTC will consider administering its second long-term conservation and management regime for the stocks under its jurisdiction, and will review and make decisions on continuing such a program in FY 2010 and onwards. The Commission will also conduct further research on the stocks of dolphins taken in conjunction with tuna and will continue to administer the IDCP to reduce and, to the extent possible, eliminate dolphin mortality in the fishery, a priority objective of the USG and constituent groups.

Great Lakes Fishery Commission (GLFC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	17,800	(1,400)

FY 2010 activities will include sea lamprey control to reach target levels that protect the valuable fisheries on all the lakes, enhanced stream treatments to provide the maximum control without expanding infrastructure, and maximum suppression of lamprey on the St. Mary's River. The proposed funding provides for baseline research and assessment programs regarding the sources of lamprey and the success of treatment options. The FY 2010 program will fund continued research into and deployment of alternative controls and to continue efforts to reduce lampricide used in the Great Lakes beyond the 35 percent reduction achieved by 2006, while still delivering successful sea lamprey control. The request will allow the GLFC to continue its work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to construct barriers that block sea lamprey from spawning in streams, continue existing highly successful sterile-male release activities, and support some field studies critical to the development of the newest alternative control method – pheromones.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	3,250	50

The FY 2010 request will fund increased fisheries management demands placed on the PSC and negotiations for a key treaty regime governing Fraser River fisheries that expires in 2010. Decisions made by the Pacific Salmon Commission affect where, when, and by whom valuable Pacific salmon resources are caught, and involve input from state, tribal, and federal stakeholders. State Department funding provides for compensation to U.S. commissioners, panel members, and alternates while serving on PSC business, and for travel and expenses of U.S. participants, pursuant to the Pacific Salmon Treaty Act. State Department funding also is used to fund the operations of the U.S. section of the PSC, and for meeting the U.S. share of joint expenses for the PSC Secretariat.

Payment to Meet Terms of Renegotiated Pacific Salmon Treaty

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	15,000	15,000

This request will fund the first of two equal disbursements under the terms of the 2008 agreement intended to help mitigate the economic effects of a significant reduction negotiated for Canada's fishery off the west coast of Vancouver Island. The reduction is a key element of the Agreement sought by the United States because of that fishery's significant impact on a number of U.S.-origin Chinook stocks listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The reduction in this fishing mortality will contribute significantly to major efforts underway in the Pacific Northwest to recover these stocks and has generated positive findings on the new fishing regimes in the ESA review process. The Canadian Government will also contribute funds to facilitate the fishery reductions. In the event the United States fails to provide the agreed funding in FY2010, the agreement's bilateral Chinook salmon fishery controls will be suspended and the recovery of affected U.S.-origin stocks could be affected.

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	3,250	(250)

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

The IPHC is a bilateral (U.S.-Canada) commission founded in 1923 and is the most successful fisheries management commission in the world. The Pacific halibut fishery is diversified over many coastal communities, provides a high-quality food source, and yields an annual catch for the U.S. with a retail value of over \$600 million to the U.S. economy. Additional revenues generated from extensive guided and recreational fishing on the halibut resource exceed \$200 million.

The decreased request level reflects the one-time acquisition costs in FY2009 for electronic monitoring capabilities to characterize the ecological impact of the halibut fishery and an ongoing program to utilize water column profilers outside of the IPHC stock assessment survey season. The request includes a four percent increase in base funding to account for inflation as well as decreased program costs with the anticipated completion of PIT tag scanning two months into FY 2010, and funds to conduct a resource survey of the eastern Bering Sea necessary to satisfy stock assessment and allocation requirements identified by the Commission.

Other Marine Conservation Organizations

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	2,476	236

The FY 2010 request will cover other fishery commissions and organizations and expenses of the U.S. commissioners. The international agreements that established each of the organizations and arrangements below specify the terms by which U.S. payments are calculated as a proportion of the agreed operating budget.

Antarctic Treaty

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	50	15

The FY 2010 request reflects the expected contribution amount for the Antarctic Treaty System. A one-time budget surplus had resulted in a reduction in the assessed contribution of all parties in 2009 and this request represents a return to usual funding levels. The Antarctic Treaty Secretariat (ATS) began operations on September 1, 2004 and is now fully functioning. The ATS carries out numerous administrative tasks in support of the annual meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties. It also relieves the United States of some of the additional burdens and responsibilities it has taken on as the Depositary Government for the Antarctic Treaty. The Treaty System oversees scientific and environmental cooperation in Antarctica and specifically addresses problems involving the marine environment, marine protected areas, and the sea and ice interface. As such, the work of the Secretariat relates directly to the work of other organizations covered by this appropriation, including the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), a sister organization under the Antarctic Treaty System.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) (\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	160	36

The request will provide CCAMLR with funding to develop and implement measures to ensure effective conservation and management of Antarctic marine living resources based on a pioneering ecosystem approach. It will also allow the repayment of funds to a US-controlled CCAMLR account accessed in FY2008 to prevent the USG from going into arrears on its 2008 dues. In FY 2010, the United States will work to advance efforts through CCAMLR to eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and implement the recommendations of the recently completed independent review of CCAMLR's performance. Membership in this Commission, which is headquartered in Australia, ensures the restoration of the world's largest untapped source of marine protein and aids in protecting future U.S. access to important marine resources in the Antarctic region.

Expenses of the U.S. Commissioners (\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	140	20

The U.S. commissioners to the various fisheries commissions are appointed by the President and are responsible to the Secretary of State in carrying out their duties. They receive transportation expenses and per diem while engaged in the commissions' work. The FY 2010 request will fund travel expenses for the U.S. commissioners to participate in meetings of all the fishery commissions except the Pacific Salmon Commission, which is covered within the funds requested for that Commission.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) (\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	270	0

ICCAT's mission is to coordinate management of populations of tuna and tuna-like species found in the Atlantic Ocean at levels that will permit the maximum sustainable catch. The Commission provides a forum for fishing nations to establish catch limits and national allocations and combat illegal fishing, and oversees a program of research on tuna, swordfish, and billfish. In FY 2010, The United States will continue to work within ICCAT to implement effective, science-based

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

measures to rebuild seriously depleted Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and to enforce stronger measures for the protection and conservation of Atlantic shark populations. The United States will also work to ensure adoption and implementation of key improvements recommended by the independent performance review of ICCAT that occurred in FY 2008 and FY 2009. Commercial U.S. fisheries under ICCAT purview are worth over \$1 billion annually; revenue from recreational fisheries for Atlantic marlin and other billfish alone are estimated at more than \$10 billion each year.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	280	25

The FY 2010 request will enable ICES to promote and coordinate research and investigation of the North Atlantic Ocean, particularly focusing on fisheries, as well as ecosystem management, marine mammals, and marine pollution. ICES plans programs; organizes research and investigation as determined necessary, in agreement with member nations; supports approximately one hundred intersessional meetings of scientific and advisory working groups and study groups to coordinate and synthesize this research; and publishes or encourages the publication of data and research resulting from investigations carried out under its auspices. In FY 2010, ICES will work to implement recommendations to improve organizational efficacy and efficiency that grew out of a major review and revision of the relationship between the organization's scientific and advisory branches in FY 2008. ICES is also seeking to broaden the relevance of its research and scientific participation. ICES advances U.S. goals of strengthening ecosystem considerations in marine resource management and ensuring that science informs environmental policy. ICES will continue to provide scientific advice to its member nations and European Community, and to regional fisheries management organizations.

International Sea Turtle Conservation Programs

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	170	30

The FY 2010 request provides for the International Sea Turtle Conservation Programs of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IASTC) and the Indian Ocean and South East Asia Sea Turtle Memorandum of Understanding (IOSEA MOU). The requested amount of \$170,000 will fund a \$110,000 contribution to initiatives under the IASTC, and \$60,000 to support the IOSEA MOU. The United States is a Party to the IASTC, and is a signatory of and fully supports the IOSEA MOU, which addresses sea turtle conservation within that region. The Inter-American Convention will complete its move from initial administrative functions to core conservation operations and program work in FY 2009; the Indian Ocean agreement has completed that transition.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	182	16

This request assumes that a previously forecast assessment increase for all large economies in the IWC membership will not be adopted for FY 2010, although it is still possible in future years. The U.S. remains vigilant on this issue since a simple majority vote controls budgetary decisions in the deeply divided organization, and the United States will lose its voting rights in the IWC if its full assessment is not paid. Funding for the IWC provides for the conservation, scientific study, and optimum use of whales, and in particular provides a quota for the taking of whales by U.S. Natives for aboriginal subsistence purposes. The IWC and its associated committees collect and analyze information on the status and trends of whale stocks, evaluate the effects of whaling, and develop conservation strategies for numerous whale species. The IWC had several significant achievements that advance U.S. environmental interests, such as adoption of the moratorium on commercial whaling, critical analyses of unilateral whaling activities in other countries, the establishment of whale sanctuaries in the Southern and Indian Oceans, and the establishment of a Conservation Committee.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	55	0

NASCO promotes the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation, as well as the acquisition, analysis, and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to these salmon stocks. NASCO has completed an in-depth review of its working methods and structure, and in 2006 adopted a series of reforms designed to improve transparency and accountability. In FY 2010, NASCO will act as a forum for information-sharing on the status of salmon stocks and the challenges facing salmon management and will continue to develop partnerships to promote salmon conservation, management, and research. This request will ensure the United States remains in good standing in NASCO. Will be able to shape the implementation of new reporting requirements to ensure accountability of members, and help the organization meet key strategic goals to restore salmon stocks and improve international governance.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	187	7

NPAFC activities help manage and preserve anadromous and ecologically-related species in the North Pacific and Central Bering Sea. Anadromous fish stocks, such as salmon and trout, spend their adult lives in the oceans but return to fresh water streams to spawn. The NPAFC mandates a prohibition on fishing for anadromous stocks on the high seas of the North Pacific, and thereby provides a valuable tool to deter the use of large-scale driftnets in that region, and significantly contributes to the U.S. goal of achieving sustainable fisheries. The NPAFC also promotes and coordinates scientific studies on anadromous stocks, the results of which can help minimize the incidental catch of valuable anadromous stocks in other fisheries. Additionally, the Parties to the Convention — United States, Canada, Russia, Japan, and Korea — collaborate internationally on high seas enforcement. In FY 2010, the NPAFC Science Committee will use the results of research on genetic markers for salmon populations to make recommendations on marine resource decision-making.

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	127	13

PICES is the Pacific Ocean counterpart of ICES, and its work is a similar combination of research planning and coordination. The North Pacific Ocean not only is rich in resources of great importance to the U.S. economy, but also exerts a major influence on weather and climate in North America. In FY 2010, PICES will encourage capacity building through scientific seminars and collaborations, workshops, symposia, technical publications, and an Intern Program. Future PICES work will be guided by the Integrative Science Program, which was finalized in FY 2008—a multidisciplinary, international research program to address some of the key challenges and questions in ecosystem-based management of marine resources. In the interest of furthering North Pacific marine science, PICES is also exploring means of expanding collaboration with non-member States. PICES supports numerous collaborative and ecosystem-based research initiatives that promote data exchange and science-based decision-making about natural resource management. The FY 2010 request will allow the United States to maintain standing and will support essential programs.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2010 Request	0	0	355	0

NAFO promotes the conservation and optimum use of fishery resources in the Northwest Atlantic. It encourages international cooperation and consultation and is responsible for investigating the abundance, life history, and ecology of any species of aquatic life in the Convention Area, and collecting and analyzing statistical information relating to the fishery resources of the area. In recent years, NAFO has successfully increased its workload without a corresponding budget increase by achieving substantial efficiencies in its administrative operations. Key FY 2010 U.S. initiatives will include expanding NAFO management of threatened shark stocks and working to secure a permanent U.S. share of fishing quota. The United States will also continue to work within NAFO to strengthen efforts to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and end destructive fishing practices. The FY 2010 request also includes funds to repay the remaining arrears incurred in FY 2005 and FY 2006.

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)

(\$ in thousands)

	Positions American	FSN	Total Funds	Increase/ Decrease
FY 2009 Request	0	0	500	74

WCPFC's objective is to ensure, through effective management, the long term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks such as tunas in the western and central Pacific Ocean. The Commission provides a forum for fishing nations to establish catch limits, area closures, and compliance and enforcement mechanisms; combat illegal fishing; minimize impacts on threatened species such as sea turtles, seabirds, and sharks; and oversee a program of scientific research. In FY 2010, The United States will continue to work within WCPFC to implement effective, science-based measures to manage declining Pacific bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks and to advance implementation by all nations of agreed monitoring, control, and surveillance measures. The United States will work further with WCPFC members to adopt and implement stronger measures to protect and conserve Pacific sea turtle and shark populations. A performance review will likely occur in FY 2010 that will enhance WCPFC's ability to fulfill its mandate, particularly through mechanisms to improve compliance with agreed rules and to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Commercial fisheries under WCPFC purview are worth over \$2 billion annually; revenue from U.S. fisheries for Pacific tunas alone is estimated at more than \$140 million each year.

INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES COMMISSIONS

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Increase / Decrease
1100 Personnel Compensation	26,312	29,925	43,576	13,651
Total	26,312	29,925	43,576	13,651